

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANILA 14523 140947Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PRS-01 AID-05 /046 W

-----089813 141415Z /43

R 140725Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5112

INFO SECDEF

JCS WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

UNCLAS MANILA 14523

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PORS, RP

SUBJ: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON WARNING TO POLICE GRADUATES

REF: MANILA 14438

1. IN AFTERMATH OF PUBLICATION OF WEEKEND SPEECH BY BG MEIM, CHAIRMAN OF PC SPECIAL ACTION COMMITTEE, TO NEW POLICE GRADUATE REGARDING TORTURE DURING INVESTIGATIONS (REFTEL), EVENING POST OF SEPTEMBER 13 PUBLISHED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "NO TO THE 'THIRD DEGREE'":

2. BEGIN QUOTE: THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PC SPECIAL ACTION COMMITTEE, ALL PC PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF THE INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICE WERE WARNED ONCE AGAIN ABOUT RESORTING TO THE THIRD DEGREE, THE METHOD APPLIED TO PERSONS SUSPECTED OF CRIMES WHEN THE SUSPECTS ARE UNCOOPERATIVE, SPECIALLY ABOUT CONFESSING. IN SOME CASES, IT TAKES VERY LITTLE TO HAVE POLICE INVESTIGATORS MANHANDLE SUSPECTS OR OTHERWISE SUBJECT THEM TO EXTREME STRESS IN ORDER TO ELICIT A
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MANILA 14523 140947Z

CONFESSION OR PROVIDE VITAL INFORMATION ON A CRIME UNDER INVESTIGATION. THIS HAS BEEN STANDARD POLICE PRACTICE, IT SEEMS, FOR AS LONG AS THERE HAS BEEN AN INSTITUTIONALIZED POLICE FORCE IN THIS AND OTHER LANDS.

3. FROM LONG PRACTICE, HARDENED POLICE INVESTIGATORS HAVE DEVELOPED THE SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES THAT HIDE TRACES OF

THE THIRD DEGREE METHODS USED ALTHOUGH THE VICTIMS MIGHT HAVE SUFFERED INTENSE PAIN AND UNTHINKABLE INDIGNITIES DURING THE INVESTIGATION. OTHER POLICEMEN DO NOT PAY ATTENTION TO SUCH NICETIES BUT SIMPLY BATTER THEIR VICTIMS, THAN MAKING IT APPEAR AFTERWARD THAT THE VICTIMS HAD SUFFERED INJURIES IN AN ACCIDENT OR SOME SUCH THING. TERRORIZED, A VICTIM OF POLICE BRUTALITY USUALLY KEEPS HIS PEACE. THERE ARE OTHERS, HOWEVER, WHO SUE OR BRING THE MATTER TO COURT; ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE SHREWD PERSONS WHO FILE BOGUS COMPLAINTS OF THIRD DEGREE GRILLING AGAINST POLICE AND PC INVESTIGATORS, FOR PERSONAL OR POLITICAL REASONS, OR SIMPLY FOR THE HECK OF IT. THIS ONLY SHOWS THAT THE THIRD DEGREE COULD BE USED HARMFULLY IN TWO WAYS, AND THAT POLICEMEN WHO EMPLOY THIS METHOD OF INTERROGATING SUSPECTS CAN BRING DISASTER TO FELLOW OFFICERS WHO DISDAIN THE METHOD BUT ARE VULNERABLE ANYWAY TO TRUMPED UP CHARGES BY VENGEFUL PERSONS. THE ANSWER TO THIS DILEMMA, THEREFORE, IS TO KEEP CLEAR OF THE THIRD DEGREE, TO ESCHEW IT LIKE POISON.

4. HARDBOILED POLICEMEN OF THE OLD SCHOOL MAY HAVE HAD SOME SUCCESS WITH THE THIRD DEGREE, BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT THEY HAD MORE FAILURES THAN SUCCESS, AND IN THE PROCESS THEY HAD BRUTALIZED PEOPLE AND POSSIBLY CREATED RECIDIVISTS WHERE THERE WERE NONE BEFORE. TODAY, POLICEMEN WHO EMPLOY THIS BRUTAL METHOD OF INVESTIGATING SUSPECTS MAY BE PROPERLY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 MANILA 14523 140947Z

CONSIDERED AS UNDESIRABLE AS CRIMINALS, INDEED NOT FIT TO WEAR THE BADGE OF AUTHORITY. IN FACT, PROGRESSIVE NEW METHODS OF INTERROGATION ARE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE STRONG-ARM METHOD AND THE NEW BREED OF POLICEMEN, GENERALLY BETTER EDUCATED THAN THEIR OLD-FASHIONED COMPEERS, MAY BE TRUSTED TO DRAW OUT FACTS FROM SUSPECTS WITHOUT LAYING A HAND ON THEM, OR EVEN THREATENING THEM.

5. THE REMINDER ARTICULATED BY THE AFORESAID POLICE OFFICIAL IS TIMELY IN THE FACE OF THE NEW EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SHOULD BE TAKEN TO HEART BY ALL POLICEMEN, WHETHER IN THE PC OR THE INP. END QUOTE.

6. GADFLY COLUMNIST DORY VALENCIA, IN SEPTEMBER 14 DAILY EXPRESS, ALSO NOTED THE SPEECH, COMMENTING "POLICEMEN HAVE BEEN TORTURING DETAINEES SINCE POLICEMEN WERE INVENTED BY MODERN GOVERNMENT. LET'S FACT IT -- THERE WILL ALWAYS BE SADISTS IN UNIFORM. PRIOR TO MARTIAL LAW, THEY CALLED THIS POLICE BRUTALITY. NOW, IT IS CALLED "TORTURE" AND THE GOVERNMENT GETS BLAMED FOR SUCH INDIVIDUAL CRIMES."

STULL

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA14523
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770333-0449
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770965/aaaaccxs.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aed1e446-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 MANILA 14438
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1279948
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON WARNING TO POLICE GRADUATES
TAGS: SHUM, PORS, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aed1e446-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009